

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TANANA 00374 01 OF 03 221352Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08

COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 IGA-02 IO-13 /083 W

-----221441 129566 /43

R 221245Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8926

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 TANANARIVE 0374

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PDIP, MA, US

SUBJECT: FAREWELL CALL ON PRIME MINISTER

REF: 76 TANANARIVE 1946

1. SUMMARY. PRIME MINISTER JUSTIN RAKOTONIAINA SPOKE OF HIS ROLE IN IMPROVING THE OVERALL GDRM ATTITUDE TOWARD THE US. HE SAID HE WILL CONTINUE TO STRIVE FOR ONGOING IMPROVEMENT IN US-GDRM RELATIONS. HE BELIEVES BUSINESS CLIMATE IN MADAGASCAR IS NOT BAD, BUT POTENTIAL INVESTORS MUST ALIGN THEMSELVES WITH GDRM'S PRIORITIES. HE REGRETTED HAVING MISSED SPEAKING WITH AMB. YOUNG IN DAR, BUT SPOKE OF STRONG POSITIVE EFFECT AMB YOUNG HAD ON ALL AFRICANS. PM FEARS THAT ONLY RADICAL SOLUTION WILL SOLVE RHODESIAN SITUATION. CONTINUING TO BE WELL-RESPECTED, PM HAS HAD STABILIZING EFFECT ON THIS GOVT AND IS ATTEMPTING TO LEAD IT OUT OF ITS BUREAUCRATIC AND IDEOLOGICAL MORASS WITHOUT JEOPARDIZING HIS OWN CREDIBILITY WITH PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA. END SUMMARY.

2. RECALLING OUR THANKSGIVING DAY MEETING AND OUR DISCUSSIONS THEN OF IMPROVING THE ATTITUDE OF GDRM OFFICIALS TOWARD THE US (REFTEL), PM RAKOTONIAINA SAID THAT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THAT MEETING HE SET ABOUT IMPLOING MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT, AS WELL AS OTHERS IN KEY PLACES, TO BRING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TANANA 00374 01 OF 03 221352Z

ABOUT A TRULY "TOUS AZIMUTS" POLICY. HE FELT THERE HAVE BEEN POSITIVE RESULTS, WHICH I ACKNOWLEDGED. I ADDED THAT I HAD BEEN AWARE OF HIS INSTRUMENTAL ROLE IN THAT REGARD AND THAT WE APPRECIATE HIS EFFORTS. WITHOUT BEING POLEMICAL (HE IS NOT KNOWN FOR BEING ONE OF THE GDRM'S IDEOLOGUES), PM SAID THAT HIS MINISTERS ARE ABSOLUTELY LOYAL TO THE NEW MALAGASY IDEOLOGY AND MOST OF

THEM STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE WEST AND MADAGASCAR SHOULD NOT IMPEDE NORMAL RELATIONS. TO THAT END, HE SAID, HE WILL CONTINUE TO STRIVE, ADDING THAT HE KNOWS HE HAS THE SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA.

3. I TOLD HIM THAT WE ARE NOT UNMINDFUL OF THOSE ADVANCES, BUT THAT BECAUSE OF AN ANTI-US HOSTILITY THAT PERVADED US-MALAGASY RELATIONS FROM THE OUTSET OF THIS REGIME IN JUNE 1975, THE GDRM HAD IN NUMEROUS WAYS ACTED HARSHLY CONCERNING THE US. CONSEQUENTLY, THE US, WHILE ENCOURAGED BY RECENT CHANGES IN THE ATMOSPHERE IN MADAGASCAR, WILL BE WATCHING CLOSELY THE GDRM'S ONGOING ATTITUDE TOWARD US IN THE HOPE THAT A SINCERE, SERIOUS EFFORT TO RESTORE NORMAL RELATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE NORM.

4. PM ENTHUSIASTICALLY ENDORSED THAT OBJECTIVE. HE SAID MOST MEMBERS OF THE GOVT WERE INEXPERIENCED IN GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS IN JUNE 1975, AND THE POLITICAL SITUATION WAS NOT ENTIRELY STABLE FOR MUCH OF THE FIRST YEAR. NOW THAT THEY HAVE GAINED EXPERIENCE, SELF-CONFIDENCE, AND STABILITY, THEY ARE ABLE TO CONDUCT THEMSELVES IN A MORE BUSINESSLIKE MANNER, ELIMINATION MANY OF THE ROUGH EDGES THAT EXISTED BEFORE. HE ADDED THAT THERE IS A DEFINITE NEED FOR MADAGASCAR TO REDUCE ITS ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE ON ONE SOURCE (FRANCE), WHILE AT THE SAME TIME AVAILING ITSELF OF COMMERCIAL, TECHNOLOGICAL, AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.SHEINBAUM

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TANANA 00374 02 OF 03 221424Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08
COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 IGA-02 IO-13 /083 W
-----221440 129963 /43

R 221245Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8927

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 TANANARIVE 0374

5. WE REFERRED ONLY OBLIQUELY TO NASA, ON WHICH HE DID NOT COMMENT. I STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE FOR ADEQUATE, PROMPT AND EFFECTIVE COMPENSATION FOR US OIL COMPANIES. HE REPLIED THAT THE GDRM HAS NOT YET DECIDED HOW TO INDEMNIFY

ALL THE NATIONALIZED COMPANIES BECAUSE ITS FINANCIAL POSITION IS NOT STRONG. OTHER DEMANDS ON THEIR RESOURCES HAVE HIGHER PRIORITY FOR THE MOMENT (HE MENTIONED RICE IMPORTS AND POST-FLOOD ENGINEERING).

6. U.S. COMMERCIAL INTERESTS. WE SPOKE OF THE DESIRABILITY TO ASSURE US AND OTHER BUSINESSMEN THAT THE BUSINESS CLIMATE HERE IS CONDUCIVE TO INVESTMENTS, AND THE PM ADDED "SO LONG AS THEY FIT INTO THE GDRM'S PRIORITIES." HE CITED, AS AN EXAMPLE, THE UREA PLANT TO BE BUILT BY THE US FIRM, N-REN, WHICH SHOULD SOLVE ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S MOST TICKLISH PROBLEMS--SHORTFALL IN RICE PRODUCTION. HE REFERRED TO THE NUMEROUS COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS WHICH GIVE AID TO MADAGASCAR, IMPLYING THAT HE HOPED THE US COULD EVENTUALLY JOIN IN, ALTHOUGH THIS MAY NOT BE REALISTIC NOW. I REPLIED THAT THE USG MUST HAVE MORE LASTING EVIDENCE OF A FIRM GDRM DESIRE TO MAINTAIN RELATIONS IN A NORMAL, CONGENIAL ATMOSPHERE.

7. AMB. YOUNG. I ASKED HIM IF HE HAD MET AMB. YOUNG IN TANZANIA. HE WAS OBVIOUSLY REGRETFUL THAT HE HAD NOT, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TANANA 00374 02 OF 03 221424Z

EXPLAINING THAT HIS STAFF AND THE FESTIVITIES MADE FOR A VERY TIGHT SCHEDULE. HE OBSERVED, HOWEVER, THAT AMB. YOUNG HAD MADE A MAGNIFICENT IMPRESSION ON THE AFRICANS. "HE WAS ALMOST ONE OF US, NOT BY HIS COLOR, BUT BY HIS MANNER IN SEEKING TO UNDERSTAND OUR PROBLEMS." PM ADDED THAT THIS WAS A REASSURING INDICATION OF HOW THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WOULD SEEK TO HELP THIS REION IN ITS OWN INTERESTS.

8. PM THEN SAID THAT IAN SMITH'S RECENT DECLARATIONS HAVE RESULTED IN REALIZATION AMONG ALL AFRICAN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE MODERATES, THAT MAJORITY RULE WILL COME ONLY BY RADICAL MEANS. I ASKED IF MADAGASCAR WOULD PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR THIS "RADICALIZATION", AND HE REPLIED THAT DECISIONS HAD NOT YET BEEN TAKEN BY COUNTRIES IN THIS REGION AS TO WHAT TO DO, AND MADAGASCAR, IN ANY EVENT, IS NOT IN POSITION TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE.

9. NEED FOR MOTIVATION. PM RETURNED TO SUBJECTS OF DOMESTIC NEEDS AND GDRM ATTITUDES, EMPHASIZING NEED FOR MOTIVATING EVERYONE AT EVERY LEVEL. HE CITED, AS MUNDANE AS IT MAY SEEM (HE SAID), HIS PLAN TO CLEAN UP STREETS OF TANANARIVE BEGINNING FEB 28 BY MEANS OF A CAMPAIGN TO MOTIVATE THE PEOPLE. HE FEELS THAT IF HE SUCCEEDS, DESPITE INADEQUATE EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES, HE WILL HAVE PROVIDED AN IMPORTANT LESSON FOR FUTURE GDRM OBJECTIVES. HIS CAMPAIGN WILL SUCCEED, HE IS CERTAIN, AND

OTHERS WILL LEARN FROM THE TACTICS USED.

10. INUNDATIONS. PM SAID THE RECENT FLOODING, WORST SINCE 1959, IS CREATING SOME HAVOC, NOT ONLY BY MAKING LARGE NUMBERS HOMELESS, BUT ALSO BY PLACING ADDED BURDENS UPON THE ECONOMY: NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FOOD IMPORTS, URGENT NEED TO STRENGTHEN DIKES, BRIDGES, AND OTHER ENGINEERING WORKS, AND TO BUILD NEW ONES TO PROVIDE RUN-OFF FOR RAINWATER FROM THE HIGH PLATEAU. A STUDY DONE IN 1964, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TANANA 00374 02 OF 03 221424Z

HE SAID, HAS NEVER BEEN IMPLEMENTED AND IS BEING RESURRECTED. ESTIMATED THEN AT \$60 MILLION, HE SAID THE COST MUST NOW BE 3-4 TIMES AS MUCH. NONETHELESS, GDRM HAS DECIDED THAT FUTURE UNCONTROLLED INUNDATIONS CAN BE EVEN MORE COSTLY TO THE COUNTRY. SHEINBAUM

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TANANA 00374 03 OF 03 221433Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08
COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 IGA-02 IO-13 /083 W
-----221440 130057 /43

R 221245Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8928

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 3 OF 3 TANANARIVE 0374

11. REPRISE. IN CLOSING, PM REAFFIRMED HIS DESIRE TO STRENGTHEN MALAGASY RELATIONS WITH THE US. HE IMPLIED THAT THINGS HAD GOTTEN OUT OF HAND, PRESUMABLY A REFERENCE TO THE SEPT EXPULSIONS, AND THAT SUCH THINGS WOULD NOT HAPPEN AGAIN, I SAID WE ARE WATCHFUL THAT MADAGASCAR WILL BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN A TRUE INDEPENDENCE, AND THAT IT WILL NOT SERVE AS A BASE INIMICAL TO US INTERESTS. HE SAID THAT ALSO WAS GDRM'S OBJECTIVE, AND HE FELT THE GOVT HAS FULL CONTROL OVER ITS DESTINY. I ADDED THAT WE KNOW MADAGASCAR HAS ALIGNED ITSELF WITH THE "PROGRESSIST"

COUNTRIES OF THE THIRD WORLD, BUT WE HOPE THAT SOONER RATHER THAN LATER MADAGASCAR WILL DETERMINE ITS VOTES AND ITS ACTIONS ON RATIONAL CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED, RATHER THAN ON THE NEED FOR ALIGNMENT. HE DID NOT REFUTE THE POINT, AND SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE IMPLICATION. HE WISHED TO ASSURE THE USG THAT, AS FAR AS HE IS CONCERNED, NORMAL US-GDRM RELATIONS HAVE A HIGH PRIORITY.

12. COMMENT: RAKOTONIAINA HAS MANAGED TO WALK A VERY NARROW LINE DURING HIS SIX MONTHS AS PM, GIVING DIRECTION TO THE CABINET WITHOUT ATTEMPTING TO RIVAL PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA. HE CONTINUES TO BE WELL RESPECTED, AND EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE OCCASIONAL WHISPERINGS ABOUT HIS PAST MEMBERSHIP IN EX-PRESIDENT TSIRANANA'S SOCIALIST PARTY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TANANA 00374 03 OF 03 221433Z

(PSD), HE HAS NEVER BEEN LABELLED BY EITHER LEFTISTS OR MODERATES AS A REASON FOR THEIR DISPLEASURE WITH THE REGIME. HE IS A LIKABLE INDIVIDUAL, AND HIS HUMBLE BEGINNINGS ARE MANIFESTED IN HIS SIMPLICITY OF STYLE AND DOWN-TO-EARTH CONVERSATION. HIS MANAGERIAL ABILITY IS EVIDENT, EVEN THOUGH THE GDRM BUREAUCRACY IS STILL A CUMBERSOME APPARATUS, AND HIS EFFORTS TO MOTIVATE PEOPLE REALISTICALLY MAY PROVIDE ONE OF THE MORE HOPEFUL ASPECTS OF THIS GOVT.

13. THE PM APPARENTLY LIKES THE US AND SEEMS TO KNOW THAT, UNLESS GDRM TURNS TO MORE EXTREME SOCIALIST APPROACH, PRESENT FORM OF GOVT REQUIRES ATTENTION AND ASSISTANCE FROM WESTERN WORLD. INFORMATION FROM OTHER DIPLOMATS, CABINET MEMBERS, OTHER GDRM OFFICIALS, AND OTHER WELL-PLACED MALAGASY IS THAT HE ALMOST SINGLE-HANDEDLY HAS ADDED STABILITY TO PRESENT REGIME, OF WHICH RATSIRAKA IS NOT UNMINDFUL. HE HAS, IN TRUE DIPLOMATIC FASHION, REPORTEDLY WORKED BOTH ON RATSIRAKA AS WELL AS ON HIS SUBORDINATES TO TAKE MORE REALISTIC APPROACH IN SOLVING DOMESTIC ILLS AND IN DEALING WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. WE NOW HAVE EVIDENCE OF HIS EFFECTIVENESS IN THE BETTER TONE OF RADIO MADAGASCAR. SINCE HE CAN PRODUCE FOR US, HE BEARS CLOSE WATCHING FOR WAYS IN WHICH HE CAN HELP REDUCE IMPORTANCE OF THOSE FORCES HERE WHOSE TENDENCIES ARE INIMICAL TO US INTERESTS. SHEINBAUM

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, INVESTMENT CLIMATE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TANANA00374
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770061-0323
Format: TEL
From: TANANARIVE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770220/aaaaarnn.tel
Line Count: 270
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5adf60c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 TANANARIVE 1946
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3261298
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FAREWELL CALL ON PRIME MINISTER
TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, MA, US, RH, (RAKOTONIAINA, JUSTIN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5adf60c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009